DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 437 549 CE 079 631

TITLE	Australian Vocational Education and Training Statistics, 1998. School Students Undertaking VET. At a Glance.
INSTITUTION	National Centre for Vocational Education Research, Leabrook (Australia).
SPONS AGENCY	Australian National Training Authority, Melbourne.
ISBN	ISBN-0-87397-576-6
PUB DATE	1998-00-00
NOTE	9p.
AVAILABLE FROM	National Centre for Vocational Education Research, 252 Kensington Road, Leabrook, South Australia 5068, Australia. e-mail: ncver@ncver.edu.au; Web site: http://www.ncver.edu.au/.
PUB TYPE	Numerical/Quantitative Data (110)
EDRS PRICE	EDRS Price MF01 Plus Postage. PC Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	Educational Certificates; *Enrollment Trends; Foreign Countries; *Job Training; National Surveys; Secondary Education; *Secondary School Students; *Student Certification; Student Characteristics; *Vocational Education
IDENTIFIERS	*Australia

ABSTRACT

The number of school students undertaking vocational education and training (VET) in Australia's publicly funded VET sector has grown rapidly in the last 5 years. It is estimated that in 1998, at least 80,000 secondary school students were also studying within Australia's publicly funded VET sector. The vast majority (88%) of these students are aged 15-19 years or about 1 in 10 of 15- to 19-year-old school students in Australia. Other estimates are that 40,400, or 37.3 percent, of VET students at secondary schools in 1998 were enrolled in the initial vocational operatives stream of study, courses that provide initial education and training at a level below that of a tradesperson. For VET students who still attended school in 1998, the major field of study was services, hospitality, and transportation followed by business, administration, economics, engineering, and surveying. For VET students not at secondary school in 1998, the major field of study was business, administration, and economics, followed by VET multifield education, engineering, and surveying. Forty-eight percent of VET students still at school are enrolled in Australian Qualification Framework level I or II courses. The proportion of module enrollments successfully completed in 1997 by students still attending school is 64.8%--close to the rate for all VET students (63.0%). In 1998, 336,900 qualifications in the publicly funded VET sector have been reported as being issued, 15,700 of them to students still attending secondary school. (YLB)

Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made
from the original document.

ED 437 549

AUSTRALIAN VOCATIONAL EDUCATION & TRAINING

NCVER

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)
☑ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it
☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality
• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy

PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE AND DISSEMINATE THIS MATERIAL IN MICROFICHE ONLY HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

S Hayton

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

2B

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

School students undertaking VET at a glance

Highlights for 1998:

The number of school students undertaking vocational education and training in Australia's publicly funded VET sector has grown rapidly in the last five years. It is estimated that:

- In 1998 at least 80 000 secondary school students were also studying within Australia's publicly funded VET sector, an increase of about 18 000 students, or 30%, since 1997.
- The vast majority (88%) of these students are aged 15 to 19 years, comprising around one in ten of 15-to-19-year-old school students in Australia.
- More than 1 900 secondary school students commenced an apprenticeship or traineeship in 1998. Almost all of them (97%) were aged 15 to 19 years.
- The number of students undertaking 'VET in schools' programs as part of the secondary school curriculum reached an estimated 117 000 in 1998. It is expected that there is some overlap among this group and the 80 000 students enrolled with training providers in the publicly funded VET sector.
- With the exception of age and employment, the demographic characteristics of VET students still attending school are broadly similar to the rest of the VET population.
- Almost half (48%)of the VET students still at school are enrolled in AQF-level I or II courses.

CE 077 631

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL TRAINING AUTHORITY

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Introduction

Students undertaking vocational education and training while still at secondary school comprise an important and rapidly growing component of the vocational education and training sector. School students can access this training in a number of ways:

- By undertaking vocational subjects which are offered and taught as part of the secondary school curriculum (now known as 'VET in schools'). It is estimated that in 1998 about 117 000 school students were involved in these programs, including some at levels below Year 11.[1]
- By undertaking work experience or work observation studies as part of their secondary school education, or by participating in local 'world of work' programs.
- By enrolling in VET subjects which are offered and taught by VET providers. In some States and Territories these arrangements are supported by formal agreements between VET providers and schools (for example, the Joint Secondary School–TAFE program in NSW).
- By commencing an apprenticeship or traineeship while still attending secondary school. The links between schools and employers is an important aspect of the development of combined VET–secondary education programs and New Apprenticeships.

There is a degree of overlap among these groups, reflecting the flexibility and diversity of the Australian vocational education and training system.

This publication focusses on the last two groups: VET students, as well as apprentices and trainees who, in 1998, were still attending secondary school.

It is estimated that:

- In 1998, the first year of the implementation of New Apprenticeships, some 1 900 young people were engaged in a mix of schooling and contracted training to an employer. This number is expected to grow.
- At least 80 000 secondary school students were undertaking VET programs with training providers who received public funds in 1998.[2] The 80 000 students include full-time, part-time and older students. However, about seven out of eight students are 15 to 19 years old.
- Since 1997, the numbers of VET students reported to be still at school increased by at least 18 000, or 30%. This increase was mainly driven by VET participation of secondary school students in South Australia (1997: 4 900; 1998: 11 600) and Queensland (1997: 16 800; 1998: 24 500).

Secondary school students who in 1998 undertook a VET course in Australia's publicly funded VET sector are most likely to:

- be 15 to 19 years old (88%)
- reside in a capital city (60%)
- have completed either year 10 or year 11 as their highest school level (72%)
- live in New South Wales or Queensland (71%)
- undertake their VET course on a part-time basis (93%)
- undertake courses classified under the major AQF awards (69.5%)

A recent study undertaken by the NCVER on employer satisfaction[3] with VET revealed that:

- 84% of employers said that there should be more work experience or work placements as part of VET
- 81% of employers said they should have more input into course content.

Scope

The remainder of this publication relates to those students still attending school who, in 1998, were enrolled with training providers in receipt of public funds to deliver vocational education and training services. This includes technical and further education institutes, agricultural colleges, some university campuses, registered community providers, private providers, and some schools. Excluded are private providers not in receipt of government funds and schools whose funding does not include any State/Territory or Commonwealth allocations for VET. Note that education and training activities funded from government allocations for secondary schooling are excluded.

Student profile

The following figure highlights that the profile of VET students still attending secondary school is broadly similar to that of other VET students in the publicly funded VET sector. The main difference, not surprisingly, is that school students undertaking VET, on average, are younger and are less likely to be employed:

- While approximately two-thirds of all VET students are employed, only about one in three VET students still attending secondary school are employed as well.
- School students undertaking VET are, on average, 18.0 years old, while the whole VET population averages 31.5 years.

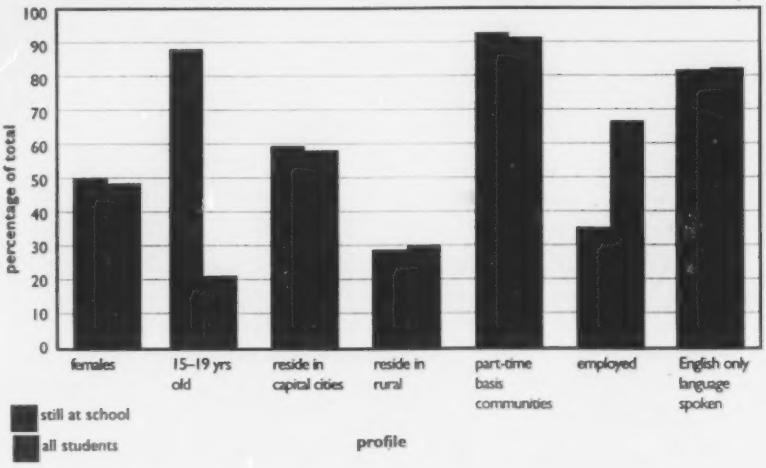

Figure 1: Profiles of VET students still attending school and all students, 1998

Average annual hours

Table 1 details the average annual hours by school attendance for 1998.

- Overall those students still attending school undertake fewer hours of VET (on average 172 hours each in 1998) than the whole VET population (204 hours).
- 15 to 19 year old VET students still attending school do fewer hours (on average 143 hours each in 1998) than other 15 to 19 year olds in VET programs (308 hours).
- Recent school leavers averaged 424 annual hours each in 1998 and hence are more likely to be full-time VET students.

Table 1: Average annual hours by school attendance, 1998

School attendance	Average annual hours
Still attending school	172
Recent school leavers*	424
Other school leavers**	222
Not known	124
Total	**204**

* 'Recent school leavers in 1998' have completed their schooling in either 1997 or 1998.
** 'Other school leavers' have finished full-time schooling. However, the year they completed their schooling is neither 1997 nor 1998.

Highest school level completed

- About two-thirds of VET students who still attended secondary school in 1998 have completed years 10 or 11 as their highest school level (table 2).
- Slightly less than one in ten VET students still at school have completed year 12. This suggests that some young people repeat year 12 for the purpose of enrolling in VET courses.
- VET students not at secondary school, on the other hand, are very likely to have completed year 12. More than half (about 55%) of recent school leavers undertaking VET, and at least 40% of earlier school leavers, have completed Year 12.

Table 2: VET participation by school attendance and highest school level completed in 1998

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Highest school level completed	Still at school (%)	Recent school leavers (%)	Other school leavers (%)	Not known (%)	Total (%)
Year 9 or lower	16.7	10.5	8.2	2.6	7.1
Year 10	29.0	21.2	24.2	4.4	18.7
Year 11	34.3	13.3	11.7	2.7	10.4
Year 12	8.3	54.6	40.5	7.3	30.3
Not known	12.1	0.4	15.3	83.1	33.5
All school levels (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
All school levels ('000)	**80.0**	**94.0**	**925.0**	**436.3**	**1,535.2**

Stream of study

A large number of VET students at secondary school in 1998 were enrolled in the initial vocational operatives stream of study. They accounted for 40 400, or 37.3%, of course enrolments by VET students still at school. These courses provide initial education and training at a level below that of a tradesperson, are generally of short duration and require minimal educational qualifications. A further 18.2% of enrolments were in courses which give some exemption to courses at trade-equivalent levels.

VET students who left school recently (in 1997 or 1998) were likely to be enrolled in complete other skills courses (16.6% of course enrolments), followed by the education preparation stream (13.2%) and the para-professional/higher technician stream (12.0%). VET students not at secondary school in 1998 show significantly higher enrolment rates in the professional/para-professional and the preparatory streams of study, and significantly lower enrolment rates in the operatives streams of study, than VET students who were still attending secondary school in 1998 (table 3).

Table 3: Course enrolments by stream of study grouping and school attendance, 1998

Stream of study grouping	Still at school (%)	Recent school leavers (%)	Other school leavers (%)	Not known (%)	Total (%)
Preparatory	14.9	21.3	21.8	31.9	24.0
Operative	37.7	12.1	17.7	26.6	20.8
Trades/skilled	44.8	50.3	45.5	33.8	42.7
Professional/para-professional	2.6	16.3	15.0	7.8	12.5
All streams of study (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total ('000)	**108.4**	**126.7**	**1,203.0**	**498.5**	**1,936.6**

Note: The groupings used in this table are based on stream of study classifications, which provide information about the content and level of a course. These groupings differ from those in the activity tables used for national planning purposes which are based on the occupational intent of the course. This means that even though the names of the groupings are similar, the training activity assigned to them is quite different.

Field of study

For VET students who still attended school in 1998 the major field of study was

- services, hospitality and transportation with 20.5% of course enrolments

followed by

- business, administration and economics (18.6%)
- engineering and surveying (15.2%)

For VET students not at secondary school in 1998 the major field of study was:

- business, administration and economics with 20.9% of course enrolments

followed by

- VET multi-field education (18.4%)
- engineering and surveying (15.0%)

Note: Because some students enrol in more than one course, the total number of course enrolments is greater than the total number of students.

Table 4: Course enrolments by field of study and school attendance, 1998

Field of study grouping	Still at school (%)	Recent school leavers (%)	Other school leavers (%)	Not known (%)	Total (%)
Land, marine resources, animal husbandry	4.7	3.9	4.6	8.9	5.7
Architecture, building	5.8	6.7	5.1	3.6	4.8
Art, humanities, social sciences	6.3	5.1	6.9	7.7	6.9
Business, administration, economics	18.6	17.6	21.3	17.9	20.0
Education	0.1	0.5	2.4	3.0	2.3
Engineering, surveying	15.2	16.2	14.9	9.6	13.6
Health, community services	5.0	8.4	8.7	7.8	8.2
Law, legal studies	0.1	0.6	0.7	0.3	0.6
Science	8.6	4.4	6.7	8.7	7.2
Veterinary science, animal care	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1
Services, hospitality, transportation	20.5	17.3	10.4	9.3	11.1
VET multi-field education	15.1	19.1	18.3	22.8	19.3
All fields of study (%)	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Total ('000)	**108.4**	**126.7**	**1,203.0**	**498.5**	**1,936.6**

Qualification level

In 1998, the majority (69.5%) of VET students still attending school undertook VET courses classified under the major awards of the Australian Qualification Framework (AQF), or equivalent. This contrasts with recent school leavers, 86.9% of whom undertook AQF, or equivalent, courses (table 5.1).

Most of the 1998 VET students who still attended secondary school and were enrolled in an AQF, or equivalent, course undertook VET at AQF levels I or II (69.6%); 19.3% of these students were enrolled at AQF level III, or equivalent, with only 7.2% at AQF IV, equivalent or above. This contrasts with all 1998 VET students enrolled in AQF, or equivalent, courses for whom the same figures are 31.8%, 29.6% and 35.4%, respectively (table 5.2).

Table 5.1: Student participation by qualification category and school attendance, 1998

Qualification category	Still at school (%)	Recent school leavers (%)	Other school leavers (%)	Not known (%)	Total (%)
AQF or equivalent	69.5	86.9	70.2	45.6	64.2
Other award	21.8	14.4	22.2	25.5	22.6
Non-award	13.	12.7	16.9	28.0	19.6
All students (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total ('000)	80.6	94.6	935.0	424.3	**1,535.2**

Note: Students can be enrolled in more than one course belonging to more than one qualification category. Hence the percentages shown in the above columns sum to more than 100.

Table 5.2: Student participation in courses classified under the major AQF awards, or equivalent, by qualification category and school attendance, 1998

AQF Qualification category	Still at school (%)	Recent school leavers (%)	Other school leavers (%)	Not known (%)	Total (%)
AQF senior secondary	0.6	1.1	2.5	6.4	3.5
AQF I	35.9	11.6	9.5	9.5	11.1
AQF II	47.2	25.7	20.3	24.0	23.0
AQF III or equivalent	19.3	29.8	31.2	27.0	29.6
AQF IV or equivalent	3.2	13.3	18.3	16.4	16.7
AQF diploma, equivalent or above	4.1	22.7	22.9	14.4	20.1
AQF - level unknown	8.9	8.5	9.9	15.8	10.9
AQF - total (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
AQF - total ('000)	**55.6**	**81.7**	**649.6**	**198.7**	**985.7**

Note: Students can be enrolled in more than one course belonging to more than one AQF qualification category. Hence the percentages shown in the above columns sum to more than 100.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Modules (subjects) undertaken

Students undertaking VET programs enrol in one or more modules (subjects), which have a range of possible outcomes (Table 6).

- The proportion of module enrolments successfully completed in 1998 by students still attending school is 64.8% which is close to the rate for all VET students (63.9%).
- The proportion of module enrolments which resulted in either withdrawal, failure or non-completion is slightly higher for VET students still attending school (28.2%) than for VET students who have finished full-time schooling (24.2%)
- As expected, VET students still attending school and recent school leavers are less likely to be granted status or credit through recognition of prior learning or credit transfer arrangements than students who have completed full-time schooling before 1997.

Table 6: Module enrolments by module outcome and school attendance, 1998

Module outcome	Still at school (%)	Recent school leavers (%)	Other school leavers (%)	Not known (%)	Total (%)
Successfully completed	64.8	58.7	63.7	57.2	63.9
Recognition of prior learning	0.5	0.8	2.9	3.3	2.6
Credit transfer	1.1	1.5	3.6	4.3	3.3
Failed, withdrawn or not completed	28.2	25.9	23.8	23.8	24.3
Not known	5.5	3.1	5.0	11.4	5.9
All outcomes (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total ('000)	**581.1**	**1,409.1**	**6,835.5**	**1,880.4**	**10,706.1**

Qualifications issued

In 1998, the issuing of 336 900 qualifications in the publicly funded VET sector has been reported. Of those, 15 700 were awarded to students still attending secondary school.

- The majority (64.0%) of awards issued to VET students still attending secondary school were statements of attainment (table 7.1)
- While about two-thirds (65.5%) of qualifications issued to recent school leavers were major AQF or equivalent awards, the same figure for students still at school is 31.8% (table 7.1).
- For VET students still attending school almost three-quarters (72.8%) of the major AQF, or equivalent, awards issued in 1998 were at AQF levels I or II, and about one in five (20.9%) at AQF levels III, equivalent or above. This contrasts to all AQF or equivalent qualifications issued in 1998, of which about a third (35.7%) were at AQF levels I or II, and more than half (53.5%) at AQF levels III, equivalent or above.

Table 7.1: Qualifications issued in 1998 by qualification category and school attendance

AQF qualification category	Still at school (%)	Recent school leavers (%)	Other school leavers (%)	Not known (%)	Total (%)
AQF or equivalent	31.8	65.5	56.3	48.7	54.0
Other awards (including statements of attainment)	68.2	34.5	43.7	51.3	46.0
All students (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total ('000)	**15.7**	**17.5**	**229.5**	**74.2**	**336.9**

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Table 7.2: Qualifications issued in 1998 and classified under the major AQF awards, or equivalent, by qualification category and school attendance

AQF qualification category	Still at school (%)	Recent school leavers (%)	Other school leavers (%)	Not known (%)	Total (%)
AQF senior secondary	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.1
AQF I	40.2	16.3	8.6	9.0	10.0
AQF II	32.6	36.2	24.1	27.0	25.7
AQF III or equivalent	11.5	24.1	27.7	24.6	26.4
AQF IV or equivalent	5.8	11.8	16.6	15.1	15.7
AQF diploma, equivalent or above.	3.5	2.5	13.2	8.8	11.4
AQF - level unknown	6.1	9.1	9.8	15.0	10.7
AQF - total (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
AQF - total ('000)	**5.0**	**11.5**	**129.2**	**36.1**	**181.8**

Participation of 15 to 19 year olds in VET

Teenagers (15 to 19 year olds) made up about 88% of all VET students who were still attending secondary school in 1998.

The following table shows that across Australia 10.1% of 15 to 19 year olds persons who were still at school in 1998 were also undertaking a VET course of some type. Queensland, South Australia, New South Wales and Tasmania are all above the national average, while the remaining states and the two territories are below. The unemployment rate for teenagers still attending school is 17.6%, slightly below the unemployment rate for Australian teenagers of 19.4% (source: Labour force, May 1998, ABS cat. no. 6203.0)*.

Table 8: School and VET participation rates for 15 to 19 year olds by State/Territory

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia
School participation rate (%)*	54.0	57.3	47.8	54.9	46.0	55.4	58.0	62.9	53.1
VET participation rate (%)**	23.7	21.3	27.4	27.4	17.9	21.1	21.9	15.9	23.3
% of VET students still attending school to all school students (%)***	11.3	3.0	19.3	18.7	2.2	11.3	5.2	1.1	10.1
VET students still attending school ('000)	26.1	5.5	23.6	10.2	1.4	2.1	0.3	0.2	69.4

* School participation rates relate to persons aged 15 to 19 in September 1998. Source: *Participation in education*, September 1998, ABS cat. no. 6272.0

** Sources: *VET national data collection 1998* and *Population by age and sex*, June 1997 to June 1998, ABS cat. no. 3201.0

*** Numbers of 15 to 19 year old school students as at September 1998.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Related publications

Australian vocational education and training statistics 1998: In detail provides detailed information on students, the courses and modules they undertook, information about module outcomes and measures of total VET activity, 151 pages.

Australian vocational education and training statistics 1998: An overview provides analytical commentary on characteristics of students, the courses and modules they undertook in 1998, module outcomes and measures of total VET activity, 38 pages.

Australian vocational education and training statistics 1998: At a glance provides a snapshot on the number of students, annual hours, courses and modules and some state and territory statistics for 1998, 8 pages.

Comments and suggestions regarding this publication are welcome. They should be forwarded to the address below.

This work has been produced with the assistance of funding provided by the Australian National Training Authority (ANTA) and is published by the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) Ltd, ACN 007 967 311 under licence from ANTA. The views and opinions expressed in this document are those of the author/project team and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Australian National Training Authority.

Published by NCVER Ltd
252 Kensington Road
LEABROOK SA 5068 Australia
e-mail: vet_req@ncver.edu.au
phone: (08) 8333 8400
fax: (08) 8331 9211
web: http://www.ncver.edu.au

ISBN: 0 87397 576 6
TD/TNC: 60.09

© Australian National Training Authority, 1998

Notes

1 *Partnerships for Growth*, Youth Task Force of the Ministerial Council on Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs, April 1999.
2 Scope: this figure is derived from the national collection of data from VET providers in receipt of public funds. For 1998 the 'at school' figure is a lower-bound estimate, as not all VET providers are as yet able to report the students who are still attending secondary school.
3 Source: *Employer satisfaction with vocational education and training 1997: national report*, NCVER 1998.
4 Under the ABS definition, persons aged 15 to 64 are considered unemployed if they are not employed, are available for work and look actively for full-time or part-time employment.

NCVER
NATIONAL CENTRE FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION RESEARCH LTD
ACN 007 967 311

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

ISBN 0 87397 576 6